BIG NATE

"Legend Of The Gunting"

Pilot Episode 101

Written by

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CAST REPORT:

BENTLEY/MERL
CHAD
COACH JOHN
DEE DEE
EIGHTH GRADER
ELLEN
FRANCIS
GINA
HIPPIE
KID
MARTIN
MR. GALVIN
MR. ROSA
MRS. GODFREY
NATE
OTHER EIGHTH GRADER
PRINCIPAL NICHOLS
STUDENT
STUDENTS
TEDDY
VOICE/BRAD GUNTER
ZORA
KID 2

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COLD OPEN

EXT. P.S. 38 MIDDLE SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Once a proud addition to the Maine school system when it was built in the 50’s, P.S. 38 has seen better days.

1 **MRS. GODFREY (V.O.)** 1
What do cave paintings teach us about early caveman life?

INT. 6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES - CONTINUOUS

As Godfrey continues rambling OFF SCREEN...

2 **MRS. GODFREY (V.O.)** 2
They teach us caveman were pigs and vandals who needed discipline to keep them from drawing on walls.

MRS. GODFREY (V.O.)
2A <RAMBLE WALLA> Now let me tell you about hierglyphics which are unintelligible and nearly impossible to read, much like most of your hand writing. 2A

PAN ACROSS the STUDENTS showing a typical group of 11 year olds. Some are paying attention. Some are dozing. Some are staring out the window dreaming of being free.

One kid, though, is looking straight INTO CAMERA dryly. Meet NATE WRIGHT (11), our hero. Mercurial, charismatic, ADD.

3 **NATE (INTO CAMERA)** 3
Welcome to Mrs. Godfrey’s Social studies class, where learning goes to die.

NEW ANGLE ON-- MRS. GODFREY (45). Frumpy, discount shoes, painted on scowl. Godfrey is a lifer. Any joy she had in teaching children vanished the moment she got tenure.

Godfrey continues talking but we can’t hear her. Instead we hear Nate narrating over the scene.

4 **NATE (V.O.)** 4
I mean, don't get me wrong. Most teachers are great. They work hard. Don't get paid enough. Cry in their cars. Basically heroes-- Godfrey though...

DOODLES of DEVIL HORNS appear in REALTIME on Godfrey's head.

5 **NATE (V.O.)** 5
Godfrey is the devil. No, wait, not the devil: CHALKZILLA.

The DEVIL HORNS are ERASED as new doodles of MONSTER SCALES appear all over Godfrey's face. FANGS appear, as well as a GIANT GODZILLA-LIKE TAIL that materializes from her butt and whips back and forth as Godfrey belches DOODLE FIRE.

6 **NATE (V.O.)** 6
Ours is a battle eternal. Who will win? Undecided. But I promise you this, I will not fail. My school -- nay, the world, needs...

7 **MRS. GODFREY (V.O.)** 7
Nate Wright!?

PUNCH WIDE TO REVEAL-- Godfrey standing over Nate who we see DOODLING a CARTOON of Godfrey in her "CREATURE TEACHER" form battling a drawing of Nate with SHIELD and SWORD.

MRS. GODFREY
(growls)
7A DETENTION! 7A

NATE
7B (Godfrey slaps a detention slip on Nate's face...he falls) 7B
Oh! Woah!

SLAP! She slams a DETENTION SLIP down on Nate's face. Nate's gives a pained look INTO CAM

ERA. Ugh. As we hear the DOWN BEAT of a GREEN DAY-ESQUE song we SMASH TO:

TITLE SEQUENCE

In a MOCK MUSIC VIDEO, Nate and his band ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK play the INTRO THEME SONG for the show. Various regular characters fly in and out until the TITLE SEQUENCE finally ends and we SPIN OUT TO:

ACT ONE

INT. P.S. 38/HALLWAY - DAY

Nate gets books from his locker. A voice (DEE DEE) speaks from behind him...

8 **DEE DEE (O.S.)** 8
Heard about Godfrey.

9 **NATE** 9
Price of greatness. What can I do.

Nate turns. Jumps back, startled, dropping his books--

10 **NATE** 10
WHAA!

DEE DEE HOLLOWAY (11), is a core member of Nate's gang. Smart, kooky, and ready for adventure, Dee Dee dreams one day of being a famous actress. This might explain why she is currently dressed like a GIANT CASHEW.

11 **NATE** 11
Dee Dee, why are dressed like a... peanut?

KID
11A AH! Get me my epipen! 11A

12 **DEE DEE** 12
I'm a cashew actually! You see drama club is doing a reimagining of the play "A RAISIN IN THE SUN" from the raisin's POV. It's about a bag of trail mix that dreams of being more than just a snack for hippies.

FANTASY 2D SEQUENCE-- A hand grabs a handful of the trail mix and <MUNCHES>.

HIPPIE
12A CHYAHHH! 12A

BACK TO REALITY.

13 **NATE** 13
<dry> I wouldn't miss it. Unless I end up in a coma. Fingers crossed.

Nate shakes his head (this behavior is pretty common with Dee Dee). Leans down to pick up his books.

Suddenly, they hear a commotion getting closer...

17 **FRANCIS (V.O.)** 17
Nate! Friend emergency!

FRANCIS POPE (11) appears, pushing his way through a crowd of KIDS. Francis is a solid, studious kid, who has taken it upon himself to help keep Nate out of trouble. He arrives at Nate and Dee Dee's side HUFFING and out of breath.

18 **FRANCIS** 18
Nate! Is it true?

19 **NATE** 19
Lot of ways I can answer that, Francis. <LOOKS INTO camera> All of them awesome.

Nate gets Dee Dee to her feet. Francis stares at Nate hard.

20 **FRANCIS** 20
Did you get detention again?

21 **NATE** 21
Oh, yeah, but it's no big--

22 **FRANCIS** 22
Nate, that's your fourth detention this week. One more and you'll be...Gunted!

23 **DEE DEE** 23
Gunted! No! <screams> NOOOOO! Wait, what's gunting?

PAGE WIPE TO -- NATE'S CARTOON

A PAGE filled with Nate's COMIC STRIP appears. A series of PANELS have been drawn which COME ALIVE as the CAMERA lands on them. Across the top of the COMIC are the words:

"THE LEGEND OF THE GUNTING"

NATE
(chuckles)
23A Let me tell you about the LEGEND OF THE GUNTING. 23A

PANEL 1-- shows a kid who looks a lot like JUDD NELSON from "THE BREAKFAST CLUB". This is BRAD GUNTER (age unknown).

24 **NATE (V.O.)** 24
Brad Gunter was the most notorious kid at P.S. 38. A legendary prankster and my personal hero.

As the CAMERA passes over each panel, we see animated illustrations of Brad's career highlights.

25 **NATE (V.O.)** 25
He replaced every frisbee in school with hunks of baloney.

PANEL 2-- TWO KIDS playing FRISBEE. KID #1 throws what is clearly a THICK PIECE OF BALONEY to KID #2. Moment Kid #2 catches it, he is attacked by PACK OF DOGS after the baloney.

26 **NATE (V.O.)** 26
He made a replica of Principal Nichols' car out of slime.

PRINCIPAL NICHOLS
(stuck in slime)
26A <OOH AHH!> 26A

PANEL 3-- PRINCIPAL NICHOLS (42) walks up to his K-CAR. Pulls the handle resulting in the slime car DISSOLVING INTO A SLIME PUDDLE that completely consumes him.

27 **NATE (V.O.)** 27
And in a feat of engineering still unmatched he mounted an entire 8th grade science class on the ceiling. Six kids went to the hospital. All of them said it was worth it.

PANEL 4-- MR. GALVIN (51) walks into his SCIENCE CLASS. GASPS when he sees all the STUDENTS sitting at their desks which are mounted on the ceiling.

The entire classroom crashes to the floor. PAGE WIPE TO:

INT. P.S. 38/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Cartoon ends. Nate finishes his story.

29 **NATE** 29
Brad Gunter was the first kid at P.S. 38 to get five detentions in one week. After that, Brad Gunter disappeared and no one ever saw him again.

30 **FRANCIS** 30
According to legend, since then, any kid who gets five detentions disappears as well.

Dee Dee grips Nate's shoulder, super dramatic--

31 **DEE DEE** 31
<GASP> Don't let them gunt you down. They can salt me, they can coat me in honey, they can even roast me, but I'll never give up where you are. That's from my monologue in the play.

32 **NATE** 32
Look, getting Gunted isn't a problem because I only have 2 detentions including--

33 **FRANCIS** 33
Uhh, think again.

FLASHBACK TO -- MONTAGE OF THE DETENTIONS NATE FORGOT

-- Nate walks up to a DRINKING FOUNTAIN that has a sign on it that reads: "OUT OF ORDER". Nate tosses the sign and takes a drink. WHOOSH! Water explodes from the fountain blasting Nate O.S. Beat later Godfrey appears, tossing a DETENTION SLIP toward him.

33A **NATE (O.S.)** 33A
<IMPACT NOISE>

FRANCIS
33B DETENTION 1. 33B

-- In GALVIN'S SCIENCE CLASS, the whole class huddles around an IQUANA in a terrarium. Galvin holds up a JAR OF FLIES.

34 **MR. GALVIN** 34
Who'd like to feed Sheila?

Everyone backs away, scared, except Nate. He cockily snatches up the fly jar and unscrews the top.

35 **NATE** 35
I got this Mr. G.

FWOOSH! Nate takes off the top and all the flies SWARM HIS HEAD. Beat later, Sheila leaps from her terrarium, and her jaws CLAMP DOWN on Nate's face. Through muffled SCREAMS Nate flails trying to dislodge Sheila, trashing the room. Beat, then Godfrey appears and rips a DETENTION SLIP off her pad.

36A **NATE** 36A
<SCREAMS> Ah! Their claws are like a hundred little scissors!

FRANCIS
36B DETENTION TWO. 36B

-- In THE AUDITORIUM, STUDENTS sit on ACCORDION RISERS. ON THE SIDE OF THE RISERS we see MR. ROSA (38) trying to lock the RISERS with a LEVER. Nate comes sauntering up.

37 **NATE** 37
Need some help, Mr. Rosa?

38 **MR. ROSA** 38
Thanks, Nate, but only teachers are legally authorized to touch school equipment.

39 **NATE** 39
Right, like that's a real law.

But before Rosa can stop him, Nate YANKS the lever. CRUNK! RISERS accordion backward hurtling the students sitting on them across the room. Godfrey once again appears and tears off a DETENTION SLIP adhering it to Nate's forehead.

40A **STUDENTS** 40A
<SCREAMING>

FRANCIS
40B DETENTION THREE. 40B

FLASH BACK TO -- NATE, FRANCIS, AND DEE DEE

FRANCIS
40C And including the one from this morning... 40C

41 **NATE** 41
Okay, okay, fine, but it's Thursday so the chances of me getting...

42 **FRANCIS** 42
It's Tuesday.

43 **NATE** 43
What!? Tuesday!? Francis how could you let this happen!

44 **FRANCIS** 44
Me!?

45 **NATE** 45
You're the obsessive, trustworthy one who's supposed to save me from myself!

46 **DEE DEE** 46
<chuckles> Burn.

Nate begins pacing, deep in thought. HEROIC MUSIC plays.

47 **NATE** 47
I have a responsibility to my fanbase at P.S. 38 not to disappear. They need me. For leadership, inspiration, and most importantly-- dream weaving.

48 **DEE DEE** 48
Nate Wright speaks truth to power!

49 **FRANCIS** 49
Okay, so what are you going to do?

50 **NATE** 50
Only thing I can do; lay low until the Gunting is over.

Nate reaches into his locker. Pulls out a HOODIE. Puts it on and pulls the hood over his head. Tightens it, looking around nervously. Moves off down the hallway. Francis follows, looking worried. Dee Dee follows them with a series of balletic split kicks.

50A **DEE DEE** 50A
<SNEAKING/JUMPING WALLA> Laying low...

INT. MR. GALVIN'S SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Nate, Francis, Dee Dee and other STUDENTS file in. Nate slinks as low as possible in his seat, trying not to be noticed. Suddenly, an arm reaches towards him holding a DETENTION SLIP re: DETENTION #5.

TEDDY
(mimicking Godfrey)
50B Nate Wright! 50B

NATE
50C OH NO! MRS. GODFREY! 50C

REVEAL: The arm is attached to a now laughing TEDDY.

Nate abruptly twists around to see TEDDY ORTIZ (11). Teddy is Nate's wingman. Funny, dry sense of humor, little bit hyper, always up for mischief.

TEDDY
50D <LAUGHS> Oh, I got you good man! 50D

53 **NATE** 53
<snorts, dry> Oh! Ugh, Teddy! Well, okay, I guess you heard too.

54 **TEDDY** 54
Oh Yeah. Nate Wright's possible Gunting. Big news. <chuckles> Gonna miss yah.

55 **NATE** 55
Hey, I've only got FOUR detentions.

56 **TEDDY** 56
It's only 8:30. You'll be chipped beef on toast by lunch.

Teddy snickers. Nate yanks away from him, pulling the hoodie over his head again.

AT THE FRONT OF THE CLASS-- MR. GALVIN (51) appears. A P.S. 38 lifer, Galvin cares about teaching but has been broken over the years. Like a war vet, he's just trying to survive.

58 **MR. GALVIN** 58
If I could have everyone's attention, Principal Nichols is here to address the class. Please show him more respect than you've ever shown me.

A portly, bald man steps up beside Galvin. PRINCIPAL WESLEY NICHOLS (42) is a good guy, but a terrible authority figure for the simple reason that he wants to be everyone's buddy.

59 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 59
Hello fellow kids, can I get a "what-what"?

GINA

59A What what?! 59A

PRINCIPAL NICHOLS

59B Fabulous. <chuckles> So, your favorite Principal needs a favor; a new student starts today. BENTLEY CARTER... 59B

60 **DEE DEE** 60

Bentley Carter? As in the CARTER FAMILY who owns half of Maine?

61 **FRANCIS** 61

Why would they send their kid-- here? To... P.S. 38? There are more rats in this school than students!

62 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 62

Only during mating season. <glee> What I do know is that now if all goes well, his rich parents might finally build us that DRONE RACETRACK you've all been asking for.

Students look at each other confused by this--

63 **STUDENTS** 63

I don't think we've ever asked for that. / Nope. / Not once.

64 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 64

So-- I need someone to show Bentley around. I would consider it a personal favor.

WHIP TO-- Nate. DING! Sits bolt upright. Looks INTO CAMERA--

65 **NATE (INTO CAMERA)** 65

Personal favor?

Nate throws back his hoodie, excited. His hand shoots up.

NATE

70A Oh, uh, Principal Nichols! 70A

We CUT TO:

EXT. MR. GALVIN'S SCIENCE CLASS - LATER

SCHOOL BELL RINGS. Kids run out of Galvin's classroom into the hall. Nichols appears with Nate and the others in tow.

71 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 71
Nate, my boy, I can't thank you enough for doing this.

72 **NATE** 72
Hey, I'm just glad I can help.

Nate smiles cherubically. The DOODLE of a HALO appears over his head. Nichols returns the smile. Sees something O.S.

73 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 73
Ah, here's our new recruit now.

Nate turns and looks. His smile immediately fades as the HALO above his head BURSTS INTO FLAMES. REVERSE ON--

BENTLEY CARTER (11). What ever a rich kid is supposed to look like, Bentley isn't it. Disheveled spiky hair, dirty cardigan, crazy eyes, and the demeanor of PETER LORRE crossed with a young AL PACINO.

74 **DEE DEE** 74
<confused> I thought he was supposed to be crazy rich?

75 **FRANCIS** 75
You got the "crazy" part right.

Bentley **<GIGGLES>** and waves to Nate.

Bentley walks up, and Nichols puts an arm around him.

76 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 76
Bentley Carter, meet Nate Wright, one of our stand out students. He's offered to show you around.

77 **NATE** 77
Hey man, nice to meet you.

Nate extends his hand to shake.

Bentley gives Nate a huge hug.

BENTLEY/NATE
78A <SQUEEZE WALLA> 78A

Nate returns it, then gives a worried look INTO CAMERA.

79 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 79

I'm sensing a love connection here which means my responsibility is done. <leans into Nate, low> DRONE RACETRACK. Make me proud.

Nichols walks away happily. Bentley watches him go, then turns to Nate and the others with a nutty grin.

80 **BENTLEY** 80

Check it out, I pranked the principal and stole his underpants.

Bentley holds up a pair of BOXERS.

81 **NATE, FRANCIS, DEE DEE** 81

<shocked> What!?

82 **NATE** 82

Bentley, that-- is impressive. I've always had trouble getting the leg holes over the shoes. Y'know that part? It's really tough. How did you do that without him noticing...

83 **DEE DEE** 83

Who cares! Bentley, you can't steal the Principal's underwear!

Dee Dee snatches the underwear back daintily. Bentley shrugs.

84 **BENTLEY** 84

I guess that means I should give his wallet back too?

Bentley holds up his wallet. Teddy's eyes go wide--

NATE

85A Okay, Bentley, that's gone far enough. 85A

86 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 86

Hmm--

(stops, looks down at his pants, realizes)

Oh no, not again.

Hides the boxers and wallet, shuffling away surreptitiously. BACK TO NATE and the others. Sigh of relief.

87 **NATE** 87

That was close. Listen Bentley, you can't...

WIDEN TO REVEAL-- Bentley is gone.

88 **DEE DEE** 88
He just ran off down the hall giggling.

88A **BENTLEY** 88A
<GIGGLING>

Bentley runs down the hall, with a pair of CRUTCHES in hand as a STUDENT hobbles after him.

STUDENT
88B Give me back my crutches! 88B

89 **TEDDY** 89
(puts an arm around Nate)
Yep. Watching over that kid, no way you're gonna get another detention. Quick question, have you made funeral arrangements? <chuckles>

DEE DEE
89A I'll sing! 89A

Off Nate's concerned look we FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

OVER BLACK a CHIRON appears ominously:

WEDNESDAY
3 DAYS BEFORE POSSIBLE GUNTING

INT. P.S.38 CAFETERIA - KITCHEN - DAY

MALE and FEMALE CAFETERIA WORKERS prepare the days lunch. ANGLE ON-- a grizzled Russian cafeteria worker named ZORA (40ish) -- square shouldered, flat head, faint mustache -- drops a bag marked VEGETARIAN SURPRISE into a rectangular chafing dish. She slices it open with a knife and squeezes the disgusting mess into the chafing dish.

Bag empty, Zora turns and tosses it away. Turns back. Shock-- The chafing dish is empty.

90 **ZORA** 90
<GASP> Oh my! The vegetarian surprise has ran away...again!

EXT. P.S. 38 - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Nate, Dee Dee, Francis, and Teddy show Bentley around the school.

91 **DEE DEE** 91
P.S. 38 can feel a little big, Bentley, but once you find your place things get easier.

92 **BENTLEY** 92
<looking around, twitchy> I notice there's no locks on the fences. What keeps you guys from escaping?

93 **FRANCIS** 93
Escaping?

Francis looks at Bentley, confused. Bentley just **<giggles>**, then turns to Nate.

94 **BENTLEY** 94
So I hear you're a prank guy, like me. Maybe we could team up, like Jack the Ripper and Dracula.

FRANCIS
94A Those were bad guys. 94A

95 **NATE** 95

<cocky> Baby steps, Bentley. I'm pretty advanced.

A BASKETBALL rolls up to them from the basketball courts. Bentley immediately grabs the ball--

EIGHTH GRADER (O.S.)

95A Hey, watch out! 95A

96 **BENTLEY** 96

Hey Nate, check this prank out. <HEAVY BREATHING> It's pretty good, right?

Bentley yanks a pen out of his backpack and JAMS it into the basketball. KABOOM! The basketball EXPLODES. CLOSE ON-- Nate, now covered in basketball guts. Nate stares blankly...

97 **NATE** 97

<dry> Oh, I'd say that's more malicious vandalism than a prank, but, uh, good try Bentley. <no response> Bentley?

WIDEN TO REVEAL-- Bentley is gone.

98 **DEE DEE** 98

He took off giggling again.

8th GRADERS wearing basketball gear walk up. Surround Nate.

COACH JOHN

98A Hey, that's school property! 98A

99 **EIGHTH GRADER** 99

Seen our ball 6th grader?

100 **NATE** 100

<covering> Ball? What is this "ball" you speak of? <nervous chuckles>

OTHER EIGHTH GRADER

100A Let's get him! 100A

EIGHTH GRADER/ OTHER EIGHTH GRADER

100B Yeah!, Let's go get him! <CHASING WALLA> He's trying to confuse us! 100B

Nate smiles nervously. Then he spins around and bolts. 8th Graders immediately give chase. Dee Dee shoots a concerned look at Francis and Teddy.

101 **DEE DEE** 101
We need to find out more about Bentley Carter.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - BOY'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Nate, Bentley, and a sweet harmless kid named CHAD APPLEWHITE (11) are toweling off after showering. When Chad speaks it sounds like he is half conscious.

102 **NATE** 102
Wet towels go in the bin near the door, Bentley. Forget and Coach John will lose it, right Chad?

103 **CHAD** 103
Oh yeah, he takes it really seriously. <whispers> He was in the war.

104 **NATE** 104
What does that have to do with wet towels?

105 **CHAD** 105
<whispers> I have no idea.

Bentley gets a mischievous look on his face. Spotting COACH JOHN -- (38) intense and barrel chested, think R. LEE ERMEY -- walking by, Bentley twirls his wet towel into a RAT TAIL and--

THWACK! Tags Coach John on the butt.

106 **COACH JOHN** 106
YIGH! Thundering marsupials we're under attack! Wait, what?

Coach John turns toward the boys. Nate's eyes bug. Thinking quick, he shoves Bentley into a locker and shuts it leaving only Chad looking innocent and cute... and holding his towel.

107 **CHAD** 107
Hey Coach John!

COACH JOHN!
107A CHAD! <RUNNING WALLA> 107A

Coach John responds by steamrolling right into Chad, tucking him under his arm, and running off with Chad like a linebacker carrying a football over the goal line.

107A **CHAD** 107A
<WEIRD SQUEAK> Thank you for your service!

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

A hub of activity. KIDS work their way down the FOOD LINE with trays. CAFETERIA WORKERS ladle slop onto plates. A priggish GIRL (possibly GINA HENPHILL-TOMS (11) who we will explore in future episodes) steps up with her tray in front of Zora.

117 **GINA** 117
Is there a low-carb, non-GMO, dairy and gluten free vegetarian option?

118 **ZORA** 118
There was, but it ran away in fear.

118A **GINA** 118A
OK, I'll take the Sloppy Joe with a side of sausage links then.

IN THE CORNER OF THE CAFETERIA-- Francis, Teddy, Dee Dee (in normal clothes), and Chad sit at a table together.

119 **TEDDY** 119
I still think Nate's freaking out over nothing. Brad Gunter is a myth. Like Big Foot. Or trans fats.

Out of nowhere Nate comes running up to the table.

126 **NATE** 126
Group meeting under the table NOW!

Nate dives under the table. Gang look at each other, shrug, then follow without question.

UNDER THE TABLE everyone squishes together.

127 **CHAD** 127
This is just like the table I sleep under at home.

Chad curls up and sleeps. Francis looks curiously at Nate.

127A **CHAD** 127A
<SNORES>

128 **FRANCIS** 128
Problems with your new BFF Bentley?

129 **NATE** 129
Yes! And whose fault is that, Francis?

130 **FRANCIS** 130
Me? I--
(motions to Dee Dee and Teddy)
I didn't see them trying to stop you volunteering.

131 **TEDDY** 131
Oh, I'd never trust myself to give advice. I know my limitations.

132 **DEE DEE** 132
And I was in character as a cashew. If the subject had been "dry roasting" maybe...

133 **NATE** 133
Okay, okay, okay. Francis knows he messed up, no need to rub it in.

133A **FRANCIS** 133A
<GROANS>

133B **NATE** 133B
We need to do something or Bentley's pranks are going to get me Gunted.

136 **DEE DEE** 136
Hmm I bet we can get we a look at his transcripts.

Heads turn. NEW ANGLE ON-- Bentley, looking around with crazy eyes. Spots the gang under the table and waves.

FRANCIS
136A Code Red at twelve o'clock! 136A

NATE
139A Alright, meeting's over. Get up there and get rid of him before he spots me. 139A

Gang nods. Crawl out from under the table, except Chad who is still asleep. Bentley appears holding a LARGE JAR.

140 **BENTLEY** 140
Hey there classmates. Nate around? I wanted to show him this JAR OF WINGLESS MURDER CRICKETS I'm gonna release on the lunch line. They are the biting kind. Don't ask who tore off the wings, it was me.

141 **NATE (UNDER TABLE)** 141
<sotto> You can't let him do it!

Teddy and Dee Dee look at Francis. He rolls his eyes.

142 **FRANCIS** 142
Oh, sorry Bentley, Nate left already. Could you hold off on the crickets a skosh? I'm sure he wouldn't want to miss it.

143 **BENTLEY** 143
Gotcha. I don't want to disappoint him. I've never had a bestie before, like Nate.

144 **FRANCIS** 144
I know he feels the same.
(Nate kicks him under the table)
Ow!

Bentley notices Chad's BURRITO sitting on his plate.

145 **BENTLEY** 145
Is anyone gonna eat that burrito?

146 **TEDDY** 146
That's Chad's, but he's...

Far as Teddy gets-- Bentley snatches up the burrito and HURLS it over his shoulder. ACROSS THE ROOM--

Mr. Galvin and Coach John are standing side-by-side surveying the room when-- SMASH! The burrito SPLATTERS across the forehead of MR. GALVIN the science teacher.

147 **MR. GALVIN** 147
<pained> Arrrrr! There's beans in my eyes. BEANS!

148 **COACH JOHN** 148
Galvin's hit!

BACK AT THE TABLE-- Chad has chosen this moment to wake up from his nap and crawl out from under the table.

149 **CHAD** 149
<YAWN> Hey, what did I miss?

150 **BENTLEY** 150
<points> He did it!

150A **COACH JOHN** 150A
CHAD!

Bentley immediately runs off GIGGLING as WHAM! Coach John steamrolls right into Chad, tucking him under his arm, and running OFF SCREEN.

Beat, then Nate crawls out from under the table. Looks at his friends with a dire expression.

151 **NATE** 151
Now get on those transcripts, or more innocents like Chad are going to get hurt.

ON CUE Coach John RUNS ACROSS SCREEN in the background with Chad still tucked under his arm.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

OVER BLACK a CHIRON APPEARS:

THURSDAY
2 DAYS BEFORE POSSIBLE GUNTING

EXT./INT. NATE'S HOUSE - MORNING

PUSH IN on a CAPE COD style house that has seen better days. Not a dump, but in need of some new paint and repairs.

IN THE KITCHEN

Nate, his dad MARTIN WRIGHT (40's), and sister ELLEN WRIGHT (15), sit around the kitchen table having breakfast. Martin is a SINGLE DAD. A sweet guy with a genial, if frazzled, demeanor. Ellen is bright with an acerbic wit, pretty much consumed with herself, like most teenagers.

Bowls of CEREAL sit in front of each. Nate moves his spoon around without eating, lost in worrisome thoughts. Ellen's cereal is being ignored, her eyes locked on her CELL PHONE.

153 **MARTIN** 153
<chipper> So, any fun plans for today at school?

154 **NATE AND ELLEN** 154
<dull indecipherable mumbling>

155 **MARTIN** 155
I get it. I didn't like school either when I was your age. Then I got older and life came along and my dreams of being a musician gave way to the reality of being a single dad making a living and uh...
(stops, awkward silence)
I'm going to go get some more milk from the cow-- the FRIDGE! In the garage.

Downcast, Martin picks up an empty milk carton from the table and exits. Beat, then Ellen looks up at Nate with a smirk.

156 **ELLEN** 156
So, I hear you're gonna get Gunted. <singing> a gunting you will go, a gunting you will go...

157 **NATE** 157
What!? Who told you that?

158 **ELLEN** 158
You think we don't hear about that kind of stuff in High School. Oh and FYI, I am totally using your bedroom as a Pilates studio when you inevitably disappear.

159 **NATE** 159
The Gunting is a legend, nobody really believes it... right?

Ellen smirks at him with a "we'll see" look, then goes back to her phone leaving Nate to stew in his worry. A little 2D devil version of Godfrey appears and digs Nate a grave **<SNICKERING>.**

INT. P.S. 38 - HALLWAY - DAY

In a shadowy hallway off the MAIN HALLWAY, Teddy and Francis wait. Check their watches. Eyes dart around.

164 **TEDDY** 164
You sure we were supposed to meet Dee Dee now?

165 **FRANCIS** 165
Yep. If we're gonna find anything on Bentley it'll be in Principal Nichol's office, and just after lunch is when he takes his secret nap in his car.

SMASH TO-- PRINCIPAL NICHOLS IN HIS K-CAR

SNORING horribly, the windows are fogged from the racket. A WINGLESS CRICKET crawls in and out of Nichol's mouth.

166 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS (IN CAR)** 166
<horrible, awful sleeping noises>

KID 2
166A The internet is going to LOVE this. 166A

Several 8TH GRADERS stand outside the Principal's car, FILMING the sleeping man on their cell phones.

BACK TO-- Teddy and Francis. Teddy shrugs...

167 **TEDDY** 167
Not really much of a secret.

168 **DEE DEE (O.S.)** 168
(British accent)
All that matters is his office is empty.

168A **TEDDY/FRANCIS** 168A
<STARTLES>

Teddy and Francis JUMP, startled. Turn. REVERSE ON-- Dee Dee dressed head to toe in a SLICK BLACK SUIT AND TIE.

169 **FRANCIS** 169
Why are you dressed like a mall piano player?

170 **TEDDY** 170
Yeah, one that goes home alone every night to his 20 year old cat and cries into a bowl of cold spaghetti. I'm going to call my Abuelo.

171 **DEE DEE** 171
I'm in character as JANE BOND from last years all female reimagining of the 007 CLASSIC "THUNDERBALL".
(strikes a pose, then loses accent)
I took an online course on espionage for research. Picked up a few things. Stay close.

Dee Dee flattens herself on the ground, then shimmies around the corner on her belly. The boys watch her go, blankly.

INT. PRINCIPAL NICHOL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The door cracks and Dee Dee somersaults into the room. Pops to her feet. Eyes dart around. Calls--

172 **DEE DEE** 172
All clear. Fan out.

Francis and Teddy slip inside. Shut the door. The three move to different sections of the room.

-- Teddy finds a POTTED PLANT with half a ROAST BEEF SANDWICH sitting in it. Teddy checks to see if the others are watching then he eats the sandwich.

174A **TEDDY** 174A
<EATING SOUNDS>

-- Francis finds a bunch of BROCHURES about DRONES and RACETRACKS on Nichol's desk. Nichol's has taken TINY PICTURES OF HIS HEAD and pasted them into the cockpits of the drones on the brochures.

174B **FRANCIS** 174B
Let's see, Drone & Country, Drone Appetit, This Old Drone...hmmm...

-- Dee Dee rifles through a FILE CABINET. Gasps...

175 **DEE DEE** 175
(reads) Transcripts. Guys, check this out.

The boys rush over. Peer over Dee Dee's shoulder looking at what's in the folder. Eyes go wide.

176 **DEE DEE** 176
We need to tell someone about this before that fifth detention Nate is avoiding (British accent again) finally catches up to him.

EXT. P.S. 38 - HALLWAY - DAY

Illustrating Dee Dee's point, we see Nate frantically chasing a HERD OF PIGLETS down the hallway...

177 **NATE** 177
Bentley, you have to stop! And where did you get all these piglets!?

Bentley **<GIGGLES MANIACALLY>.**

BLACK OUT.

OVER BLACK a CHIRON APPEARS:

FRIDAY
LAST DAY BEFORE POSSIBLE GUNTING

EXT. P.S. 38 - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Bell RINGS as STUDENTS stream inside.

INT. P.S. 38 - HALLWAY - DAY

Bentley, at his locker, loads what looks like ROPE, PULLEYS, and other EQUIPMENT into his backpack. Closes his locker. Turns. Startled to see Nate standing there looking frazzled.

177A **BENTLEY** 177A
<SNICKERING, BREATHING HEAVY>

178 **BENTLEY** 178
Oh, hey new bestie. You going to the assembly?

179 **NATE** 179
Bentley, the pranks need to stop. If they don't, someone is going to get hurt.

180 **BENTLEY** 180
<laughs> Isn't that what makes pranks fun? The pain?

181 **NATE** 181
No! I mean, look, look, I get it. You admire me. See the respect I get.

182 **BENTLEY** 182
Seems like most people just ignore you.

183 **NATE** 183
It's subtle. Look, regardless, I'm done. I can't keep protecting you.

184 **BENTLEY** 184
I didn't ask you for protection. Wait, what's a matter Nate, afraid of a little competition?

185 **NATE** 185
Oh no, Nate Wright knows no fear. Yeah, that's right-- I'm speaking in the third person.

Bentley moves uncomfortably close to Nate.

186 **BENTLEY** 186
I like this school. Think I might stay awhile. Thought we'd make a good team, but if not...maybe we'd make for better rivals like Frankenstein and Amelia Earhart.

Nate stands there. Stunned. Unsure what to do. Bentley gives a wide, frightening smile. Pats Nate on the shoulder.

187 **BENTLEY** 187
Gotta go. Don't want to be late for the assembly. <HOLDS UP A SAW> or should I say DIS-ASSEMBLY <crazy laughter>.

Bentley hoists his heavy back pack. Nate watches him go, vibrating with frustration.

NATE
187A <GROAN> (HITS WALL WITH FIST) 187A
<GRUNT>

SMASH TO:

INT. BOY'S BATHROOM - DAY

Nate storms in. Locks himself in a stall. Sits hard. Stares at GRAFFITI on the walls of the stall. Like the CAVE PAINTINGS Godfrey spoke of in the COLD OPEN. Only these aren't cave paintings; they are Nate's CARTOONS.

DAN CUPID, DR. CESSPOOL, LUKE WARM PRIVATE EYE, ULTRA-NATE. Each represented along with a cartoon of Nate himself on horseback, holding a sword aloft under a banner which reads:

"DESTINED FOR AWESOMENESS"

Nate's head hangs sadly...

188 **NATE** 188
Destined for awesomeness?
Pfft..Right.

189 **VOICE (O.S.)** 189
You okay over there?

Nate stiffens, startled. Looks around.

190 **NATE** 190
Hello?

Nate glances down to the gap between the stall and the ground. Sees a PAIR OF BOOTS.

191 **NATE** 191
Oh. Sorry. I thought I was alone.

192 **VOICE (O.S.)** 192
I can hear you moping from over here. What's going on?

Nate hesitates. This is weird... but so what.

193 **NATE** 193
<sighs> You know that feeling when something bad is going to happen, and well, you want to stop it, but if you do you'll get that fifth detention and disappear and never see your friends again or be able to shoot cheese doodles into your dad's face...(ALT: cheesy snacks)

195 **NATE** 195
Yeah well, that's how I feel. Like I blew it instead of being who I want to be. Who I should be.

196 **VOICE (O.S.)** 196
"Destined for awesomeness".

197 **NATE** 197
<nods> Yeah, I didn't think it would be so hard.

198 **VOICE (O.S.)** 198
<chuckles> If it was easy, Nate, everyone would be awesome.

Nate contemplates this with a weak nod. Then he sits up straight. Something has caught his attention--

199 **NATE** 199
Wait, how do you know who I am? Who are you?

200 **VOICE** 200
I go by many names. The ancient mayans called me BABAJIDE EL EMBAUCADOR. In the time of Romans I was known as AUGUSTUS QUI DECIPITUR. But here, at P.S. 38 you know me by a different name...

Nate GASPS. Cold sweat down his neck.

201 **NATE** 201
Brad Gunter? But-- according to legend, Brad Gunter disappeared years ago. How can you be here?

202 **VOICE** 202
I'm a legend, kid, and legends get to come and go as they please. You could be a legend someday too if you remember one simple thing.

203 **NATE** 203
Oh yeah? What's that?

204 **VOICE** 204
Those who are destined for awesomeness never keep their heads down. <beat> My work here is done.

O.S. FLUSH! Nate springs to his feet. Busts out of his stall, and throws open the door of the stall next to him...

It's EMPTY! Nate turns and SPEAKS INTO CAMERA:

205 **NATE** 205
Woah! I have no idea if that really just happened but it doesn't matter because I know what I need to do.

INT. AUDITORIUM/GYM - DAY

The entire school has gathered on the accordion risers. Principal Nichols stands on the gym floor with the other TEACHERS playing with a DRONE until it loses control and shoots toward the risers...

206 **STUDENTS** 206
<fear> AHHHH! Ahhh! Nooo!

It buzzes the kids then flies off to the side, SMACKS a wall, and slides painfully to the floor. Nichols, embarrassed, **<CHUCKLES>** and tosses the drone controller. It hits Galvin OFF CAMERA--

207 **MR. GALVIN (O.S.)** 207
AHH! My sternum!

Nichols clears his throat and steps before a mic.

208 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 208
Before we begin I would like to thank the janitorial staff for their continued gum initiative. As of today, they have collected over 40 pounds of gum from beneath school desks now, children.

WHIP PAN TO-- A gigantic BALL OF GUM with three JANITORS stuck to it like flailing mosquitoes. BACK TO NICHOLS--

209 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 209
According to the science teachers, some of that gum is from 1821 which is curiously before the school was built so, way to hustle boys. Way to hustle.

ACROSS THE ROOM-- as Nichols speaks inaudibly in the BG, Nate appears at the auditorium door. Slightly out of breath from running he scans the room...

209A **MR. GALVIN** 209A
Oh! Ow! My other sternum!

PRINCIPAL NICHOLS
209B Now to proceed with today's 209B
assembly...I am here to talk to you about...

NATE'S POV-- Nate's eyes move across the student body until noticing a ROPE hanging down from the ceiling. Eyes follow the rope to the side of the risers. PUSH IN ON-- Bentley.

NATE
209C Oh no! 209C

Bentley has his hands around the rope. Nate's eyes track the rope up into the rafters where COMPLEX PULLEYS and COUNTERWEIGHTS have been rigged up to a MASSIVE TUB containing some unknown substance.

Directly below the unknown substance is PRINCIPAL NICHOLS. Nate's eyes WHIP BACK to Bentley. **<Evil chuckles>** Bentley pulls the rope. Nate springs into action. Has to get Nichols out of the way. But there is an obstacle...

GODFREY. As Nate springs toward the principal, Godfrey spots him. Smiles. Pulls out her pad of DETENTION SLIPS.

211A **MRS. GODFREY** 211A
<EVIL CHUCKLES>

212 **NATE (V.O.)** 212
Sometimes, the choice is simple.

DISSOLVE TO-- NATE'S CARTOON

In a replay of the COLD OPEN, Cartoon Godfrey morph into her CREATURE TEACHER form: MONSTER SCALES, FANGS, GIANT GODZILLA-LIKE TAIL, and FIRE BREATH. Cartoon Nate races toward her with SWORD and SHIELD.

213 **NATE (V.O.)** 213
Your social studies teacher has turned into a Kaiju monster and you must slay her before danger comes to the princess, who in this case is your principal...

ON CARTOON NICHOLS-- Now dressed sort-of-like-but-not-really-so-we-don't-get-sued ELSA from "FROZEN".

PRINCIPAL NICHOLS
213A <DAINTY OOH, WALLA> Ooh hi! 213A

214 **NATE (V.O.)** 214
Which actually looks pretty good on him.

215 Cartoon Godfrey belches fire. Cartoon Nate blocks, countering with ferocious blows. ABOVE THEM-- the PULLEYS and GEARS turn as the outcome of Bentley's prank nears. 215

Cartoon Nate slides under Cartoon Godfrey's monster legs as she lunges for him. Godfrey tumbles giving Nate a clear path to Nichols. ABOVE THEM-- the tub of UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE tilts toward Cartoon Principal Nichols. Cartoon Nate LEAPS--

BACK TO REALITY

SLAM! Nate knocks Nichols out of the way as SPLASH! A wall of SLOP crashes down on top of him. The crowd **<GASPS>.**

ACROSS THE ROOM-- Zora from the CAFETERIA SCENE nods at the slop.

216 **ZORA** 216
So that's where the vegetarian surprise went.

BACK TO NATE-- Completely disappears under the slop as we FADE OUT.

INT. AUDITORIUM - SOMETIME LATER

DARKNESS. Then we hear Dee Dee's voice...

217 **DEE DEE (V.O.)** 217
Nate, wake-up. You're a hero.

NATE
(groggy)
217A Ohhh...Little help. 217A

FRANCIS
217B Yeah, no thank you. 217B

TEDDY
217C You smell like an otter bathing in hot dog water. 217C

FRANCIS
217D I was gonna say burnt cabbage lathered in diaper sauce. 217D

Nate's eyes flutter open. Vision blurry. Focus. Dee Dee stands over him, Francis and Teddy behind her.

Dee Dee pushes them aside and helps Nate to his feet.

220 **NATE** 220
What happened?

221 **DEE DEE** 221
We found Bentley's transcript.

Dee Dee pulls out the folder she found earlier in Nichols office as Francis and Teddy join them. Opens it.

INSIDE THE FOLDER-- We see it is a SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT filled out sloppily in multiple shades of CRAYON.

222 **NATE (O.S.)** 222
Did he fill this out in-- crayon?

224 **DEE DEE (O.S.)** 224
Yeah, and check out the photo above his name.

Dee Dee flips a page revealing a photo of what is clearly a GIRL with fake "Bentley" hair drawn on in black crayon and the name "BENTLEY CARTER" underneath also in crayon.

225 **FRANCIS (O.S.)** 225
Nichols must have been so excited about getting a rich kid in this school he never looked at his transcripts.

226 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS (O.S.)** 226
You can't prove that.

BACK TO-- Nate and the others. Nate gestures toward the Guards holding Bentley.

227 **NATE** 227
So if Bentley's not Bentley-- whose Bentley?

Nate looks out. Two MEN IN LAB COATS hold Bentley. Godfrey is beside them.

BENTLEY

227A (struggles) 227A
<WALLA> I'll steal your underpants!

228 **DEE DEE** 228
His real name is MERL LAZENBEE and he's an escapee from THE INSTITUTION FOR CRIMINALLY INSANE TWEENS. Apparently, he's done this same thing before at other schools.

Nichols walks into frame next to Nate and Dee Dee.

229 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 229
Fortunately Dee Dee alerted me. I in turn called my lawyer, who -- after determining the school was not liable -- called the authorities.

BENTLEY

229A I'll get your underpants! I'll get all your underpants's! 229A

Lab Coats start dragging Bentley out. He grins toward Nate.

230 **BENTLEY/MERL** 230
We'll see each other again. Might not be for another 40 years, but you and me, we got a bond, Nate Wright. Like Stalin and Hercules.

231 **NATE** 231
Can't wait. Hold on, yes I can. Buh-by.

Bentley's grin turns slightly sinister as he's yanked away. Nichols steps-up to Nate as his friends circle around.

232 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 232
I owe you, Nate, and your friends, a debt of thanks.

233 **NATE** 233
So... uh, I'm not going to get a fifth detention?

234 **MRS. GODFREY** 234
Let's not get ahead of ourselves...you're still a degenerate.

235 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS** 235
No. In fact, after what you've done for the school, I'm clearing all your detentions... ***this*** **week.**

235A **MRS. GODFREY** 235A
<SCOWLS> <GROANS>

Godfrey scowls, putting her pad away. Nate looks at his friends who are beaming. He's done it! DISSOLVE TO:

INT. P.S. 38 - HALLWAY - DAY

Nate walks in SEMI-SLOW MOTION down the hall still covered in vegetarian slop. He speaks in V.O.

236 **NATE (V.O.)** 236
And there you have it. Brad Gunter was right; those destined for awesomeness never keep their heads down. Yep. You see how they look at me...

NEW ANGLE-- Shots of the STUDENTS looking at Nate as he walks proudly past them covered in muck. Some snicker. Other's turn away in disgust. Several point and hold their noses.

237 **NATE (V.O.)** 237
The envy. Jealousy. Admiration. Heavy is the head that wears the crown. Fortunately...

EXT. P.S. 38 - DAY

BELL RINGS. Front doors of the school open. KIDS burst out, rushing home, off to play, etc. Nate appears, still covered in muck. He steps out, holding his face to the sun, then he looks directly INTO CAMERA--

238 **NATE (INTO CAMERA)** 238
I draw a really good crown.

THE DOODLE of a CROWN appears on Nate's head. Nate stares out. ON A NEARBY HILL the backlit form of Brad Gunter appears. Brad pumps his fist in the air like JUDD NELSON at the end of "THE BREAKFAST CLUB". Nate nods, pumping his own fist into the air in solidarity.

BRAD GUNTER

238A Nate Wright! Someday, you'll be awesome too! I can feel it. 238A

As Nate walks off with his friends, he doesn't notice a DRONE fly across the sky and SMASH into Brad, toppling him.

239 **PRINCIPAL NICHOLS (O.S.)** 239

Sorry!

BLACK OUT. END OF SHOW.